

Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2015 6:31 PM

To: Briel, Ron

Subject: CST and CSTFA

Dear Mr. Briel,

I have worked in the Operating Room for 24 years. I have been a Certified Surgical Technologist for most of the years and have become an RN as of June of 2010. I currently work in Omaha, NE at the Nebraska Orthopaedic Hospital on 144th and Center. I worked for 15 years at Lincoln General Hospital and Bryan/LGH West during the time that Bryan purchased Lincoln General.

The Surgical Technology position is very important in the OR. I have heard many surgeons say ... "The Tech that is in their room can make or break the case." The Surgical Technologist doesn't get as much credit as they deserve because they can be shot down by some RNs in surgery. I believe this is because the RN can be jealous of the bond that the surgeon has with the technologist and lets face it, the Surgical Technologist training is solely in the Operating Room and a nurse is trained in many different areas of the hospital. It really needs to be a team effort among all professionals in the OR.

The Surgical Technologist is in scrub attire and at the surgical field with the surgeon anticipating what is he or she needs next, holding retractors, and assisting the surgeon during surgical procedures.

While in Lincoln I did act at a First Assistant because the surgeons didn't always have a Physician Assistant to help them. I took extra classes (with a general surgeon present) to learn suturing techniques and other First Assistant duties. The CSTFA works in the presence of a surgeon so the work is overseen and this frees the surgeon to do other things such as close other incisions and the First Assistant can assist the Surgeon to close bigger wounds. The Omaha surgeons that I currently work with have Physician Assistants so CSTFAs aren't utilized, at least not at NOH.

I am lucky because I worked at NOH as a Surgical Technologist and now as a Circulating Nurse so I get to do both jobs as needed. This is an important profession and I believe that it deserves to be a licensed profession. As stated before it is very technical and stressful to be right up in the sterile field performing many duties as needed.

Sincerely,

Jill Renee Flott RN